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Dear Health Care Providers:

Re: **WINTER 2013 IMMUNIZATION UPDATE**

REVISED IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES FOR 2013

On January 28, 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published the Updated Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 – 18 Years and Adults Aged 19 Years and Older -- United States, 2013 ([MMWR 2013;62\[05\];1-19](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5901a1.htm)). A Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 4 Months Through 18 Years was also included. All schedules are available on the Immunization Program website at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/syndication/vaccineSchedule.htm>. Providers are encouraged to review all three schedules, including the footnotes, to ensure they are fully informed about the changes. Some of the important changes are listed below.

Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule Changes

- The child and adolescent schedules were combined to create one schedule for persons aged 0 through 18 years.
- The dose numbers are included in the schedule to assist providers in tracking vaccine doses.
- The MCV4 purple bar was extended to age 6 weeks to reflect licensure of Hib-MenCY vaccine.
- Abbreviations for influenza vaccine were updated to include newly licensed quadrivalent vaccines (changed to inactivated influenza vaccine, abbreviated IIV, instead of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine, abbreviated TIV).
- The footnotes for each vaccine were combined to include "routine", "catch-up", and "high-risk group" recommendations in the same footnote.

Adult Immunization Schedule Changes

- The Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) footnote was updated to include vaccination of women during each pregnancy, regardless of interval since last Tdap. Additionally, the footnote now recommends one dose of Tdap for all adults, including those aged 65 years and older (not just persons anticipating exposure to children).
- The Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) footnote was modified to reflect the new recommendation that a provider diagnosis of measles, mumps, rubella, that did not include laboratory confirmation testing, no longer be considered acceptable evidence of immunity to measles, mumps, or rubella.

- Information was added to the pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23) footnote to clarify that persons recommended to receive two doses of PPSV23 before age 65 years, are, also, recommended to receive a third dose of PPSV23 when they reach age 65 years, as long as it has been 5 years since their most recent dose of PPSV23.
- A new footnote was added to incorporate the use of PCV13 vaccine, together with PPSV23 vaccine, for adults with immunocompromising conditions, as well as, adults with other select conditions.

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION RELATED INFORMATION

New MMR Provisional Vaccine Recommendations for HIV Patients

In October 2012, ACIP released new provisional recommendations for vaccination of HIV patients with MMR vaccine. Two doses of MMR vaccine are now recommended for HIV positive patients 12 months and older who do not have evidence of immunity or severe immunosuppression. Per ACIP guidelines, evidence of immunosuppression should be determined by the patient's age and CD4 percentages. The new recommendation is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/mmr-Oct-2012.pdf>.

Recommendations for use of Immune Globulin (IG), Including Intravenous IG, for Measles Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

In the provisional recommendations for HIV patients noted above, ACIP, also, updated the post-exposure-prophylaxis recommendations for use of immune globulin (IG) for severely immunocompromised persons, as well as, non-immune pregnant women, when such individuals are exposed to an infectious measles case. The recommendation includes the routine use of intravenously administered IG in such instances.

Exemption to California's Thimerosal Law for Flu Vaccine for 2012 – 2013

The California Health and Safety Code requires providers to use vaccines with no more than trace amounts of Thimerosal when vaccinating pregnant women and children under 3 year of age. However, due to the limited supply of flu vaccine and the marked increase in flu activity this year, the California State Health Officer has exempted California's flu vaccination providers from having to comply with this requirement for the remainder of the 2012-2013 flu season. A copy of the Thimerosal exemption letter is posted on the EZIZ website at [http://eziz.org/assets/docs/vfcfax_2013-02-04_FluUpdate_final\(1\).pdf](http://eziz.org/assets/docs/vfcfax_2013-02-04_FluUpdate_final(1).pdf).

FDA Approves Expanded Age Indication for Prevnar 13 (PCV13)

In January 2013, the Food and Drug Administration approved use of PCV13 to prevent invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) for children and adolescents age 6 through 17 years. However, until ACIP reviews and publishes its recommendations on the use of PCV13 for this age group, providers should continue to follow current ACIP recommendations for PCV13.

Keep Vaccines Safe and Effective -- New CDC Storage and Handling Toolkit

In November 2012, the CDC released a new Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit for health care providers. The toolkit contains resources to ensure that refrigerated vaccines are not accidentally frozen (destroys potency) and that vaccines required to be frozen are maintained in the frozen state before use. Information on refrigerators, freezers, and thermometers are provided, along with "best practice" strategies for maintaining the cold chain, as well as, maintaining accurate vaccine inventories. A copy of the toolkit can be found on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/toolkit/default.htm>.

New Vaccine Information Statements

The pediatric Multi-vaccine (Nov. 16, 2012) Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) has been updated. Please remember that the most current version of the VIS should be given to the parent/patient prior to administering any vaccine. Current versions in various languages can be downloaded from the Immunization Action Coalition website at <http://www.immunize.org/vis/>.

Please forward this immunization update to your staff, and others, who are responsible for immunization-related services at your clinic or health care facility. Feel free to contact our main office for immunization questions or concerns by dialing (213) 351-7800 during regular business hours, or by visiting our website at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip.

Sincerely,

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Medical Director

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